

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A digital camera, comprising:

a camera body;

an optical system ~~having~~ including a lens positioned on a first side of said camera body;

a flash device, said flash device secured to said camera body on the first side of said camera body and at a constant distance from said lens; and

a cover device coupled to said camera body and configured to cover said lens and said flash device, said cover device including and includes a cover member configured to cover and uncover said lens and said flash device by sliding within a range of said camera body in a vertical direction at the first side of said camera body.

Claim 2 (Original): The digital camera according to claim 1, wherein said lens is arranged at an upper edge of the first side of said camera body.

Claim 3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Original): The digital camera according to claim 1, wherein said cover device is configured to actuate a power switch to said digital camera when said cover device is moved from a closed position to an open position.

Claim 5 (Original): The digital camera according to claim 1, further comprising a display device positioned on a second side of said camera body, wherein said second side of

said camera body is opposite to said first side of said camera body.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A digital camera comprising:

a camera body;

an optical system having a lens positioned on a first side of said camera body, said optical system including a ; and means for covering said lens by sliding within a range of said camera body in a vertical direction at said first side of said camera body; and

a flash device, said flash device secured to the camera body on the first side of said camera body and at a constant distance from said lens, wherein said means for covering said lens covers said flash device.

Claim 7 (Original): The digital camera according to Claim 6, wherein said means for covering said lens includes a cover member that is slidably actuated between an open position and a closed position.

Claim 8 (Original): The digital camera according to claim 6, wherein said lens is arranged at an upper edge of the first side of said camera body.

Claim 9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The digital camera according to claim 6, wherein said means for covering said lens is configured to actuate a power switch to said digital camera when said means for covering said lens uncovers said lens ~~is moved from a closed position to an open position.~~

Claim 11 (Original): The digital camera according to claim 6, further comprising a display device positioned on a second side of said camera body, wherein said second side of said camera body is opposite to said first side of said camera body.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A method for protecting a digital camera, the digital camera including a camera body, an ~~and an~~ optical system having a lens positioned on a front of the said camera body, and a flash device positioned on the front of said camera body and positioned at a constant distance from said lens, said method comprising the ~~step~~ steps of:

covering the said lens with a ~~first~~ cover device including a cover member coupled to said camera body and configured to cover and uncover ~~the~~ said lens by sliding within a range of said camera body in a vertical direction at the front of the camera body, and  
covering said flash device with said cover device when covering the lens.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 12, wherein said digital camera further includes said lens is arranged at an upper edge of the ~~first side~~ front of said camera body.

Claim 14 (Canceled).

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 12, ~~wherein said cover device is configured to actuate~~ further comprising the step of actuating a power switch to said digital camera when said cover device is moved from a closed position to an open position.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 12, wherein said digital camera further ~~comprises~~ includes a display device positioned on a ~~second~~ back side of said camera body, wherein said ~~second~~ back side of said camera body is opposite to said ~~first~~ front side of said camera body.

Claim 17 (New): The digital camera according to Claim 1, wherein said lens and said flash device are horizontally arranged side by side.

Claim 18 (New): A digital camera, comprising:  
a camera body;  
an optical system including a lens positioned on a first side of said camera body;  
a flash device, said flash device secured to the camera body and positioned on the first side of the camera body at a constant distance from said lens;  
a cover device coupled to the camera body and configured to cover said lens and said flash device, said cover device including a cover member configured to cover and uncover said lens and said flash device by sliding within a range of said camera body in a first direction along the first side of said camera body.

Claim 19 (New): The digital camera according to Claim 18, wherein said lens and said flash device are arranged side by side substantially in a direction perpendicular to the first direction.

Claim 20 (New): The digital camera according to Claim 17, wherein said lens and said flash device are arranged on the upper edge of the camera body.